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PHONY PEACH IN FLORIDA

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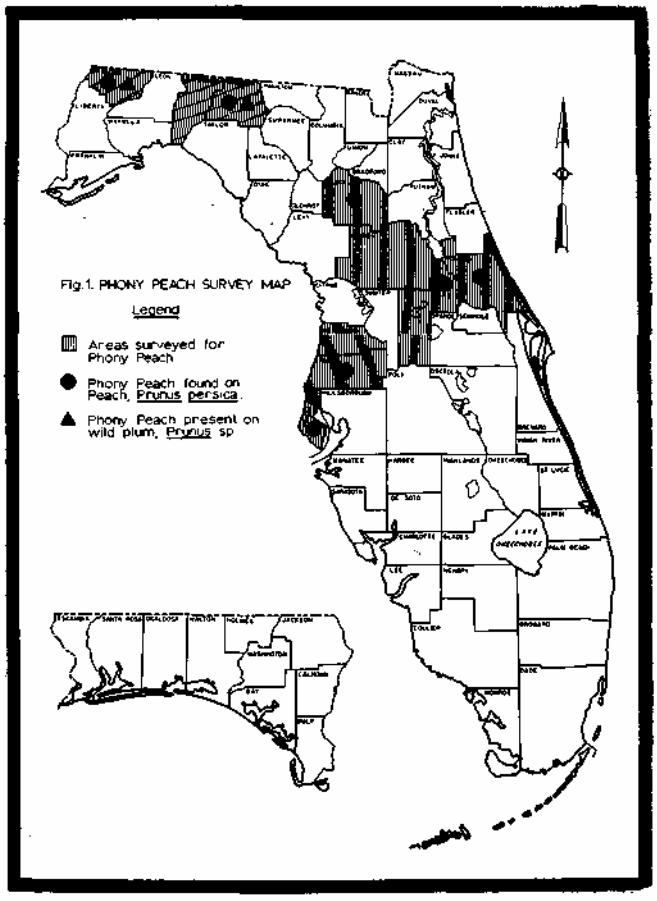
During July a survey was made for phony peach, a virus disease of Prunus sp., in the major peach growing areas of Florida by Plant Industry Division personnel. Both visual inspection and a chemical test (1) were used in making determinations on trees suspected of having phony peach. Since all Prunus spp. are known to be susceptible to this virus disease, the survey included wild host Prunus sp. growing in the vicinity of commercial orchards surveyed.

DISTRIBUTION

Phony peach was found on peach, Prunus persica Batch. in Gadsden, Madison, Alachua, Lake, Volusia, Hernando, Pasco and Pinellas counties, and on wild plum, Prunus sp., in Gadsden and Madison counties. (Fig. 1) Six phony peach vectors, leafhoppers (2) are known to be present in Florida: Homalodisca coagulata (Say) (=triquetra), Oncometopia orbona (F.)(=undata), Graphocephala versuta (Say). Cuerna costalis (F.)$_t$ Homalodisca insolita (Wlk.), Draeculacephala sp.

CONTROL

In those states having a phony peach control program, the following or similar procedures are used: 1) Uniform State quarantines require the certification of peach nursery stock. The requirement for certification is the eradication, prior to June 30 of the current year, of phony peach trees found within the one-mile environs of the nursery. 2) All wood is removed from buds in propagation. 3) State agencies and growers participate in a cooperative eradication program with the Plant Pest Control Division, U.S.D.A. This program involves an annual inspection of orchards and the removal of all diseased trees_, as well as the treatment of stumps with Ammate to pre vent sprouting. A part of this program is eradication of all wild plum, Prunus sp., within a one-quarter mile radius of orchards by treating with Ammate or 2-4-5T.



Literature Cited

1. Hutchins, L. M. 1933. Identification and control of the phony disease of peach. Ga. Off. State Ent. Bul. 78, 55 pp.
2. Turner, W. F. and H. N. Pollard. 1959. Insect transmission of phony peach disease. U.S. Dept. of Agr. Tech. Bul. 1193, p. 8-10.